



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 12, 2004

H.R. 3846 **Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on May 5, 2004

CBO estimates that H.R. 3846 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill would not affect direct spending or revenues. H.R. 3846 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 3846 would establish a process for the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to enter into contracts or agreements with certain Indian tribes to carry out land management activities on federal lands adjacent to tribal forests or rangelands. The purpose of such projects would be to restore lands that pose a risk of fire, disease, or other threat to tribal lands. H.R. 3846 specifies criteria to be used by the secretaries in reviewing proposals from tribes.

Based on information from the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3846 would not significantly affect federal spending. Both agencies already work cooperatively with tribes to conduct land management projects on federal lands adjacent to tribal forests and rangelands. According to the agencies, the proposed changes to the process for selecting such projects would not significantly affect costs to implement them.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Megan Carroll. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.